GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:356
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2006
TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)Whether the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has a mission to spread the commercial application of research and transfer of technology from laboratories to the corporate world;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c)the steps being taken to bring industry and academia closer?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(KAPIL SIBAL)

(a)to(c) : A statement is laid on the table of the House. Statement referred in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 356 for answer on 15.12.2006

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) is a unique public sector enterprise wholly devoted to transfer of technologies from R&D establishments and academic institutions to industry as well as their commercialization. This mission is accomplished in the following manner:

(i)Various R&D laboratories, universities and industrial units either assign the technologies developed by them to NRDC for transfer to the corporate world and their commercialization or NRDC, proactively sources commercialisable technologies from R&D system/industry in India and abroad. For example, many R&D laboratories, universities and industries, such as CSIR labs, DRDO establishments, Central Silk Board, Central Coir Research Institute, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Central Power Research Institute, AIIMS, Delhi University and Indian Oil Corporation have assigned technologies in area such drugs, chemicals, pesticides, silk processing, mechanical and construction industry to NRDC, for commercial exploitation. NRDC on the other hand has signed MoUs with a number of universities for commercialization of their technologies. These include Haryana Agricultural University, Punjab Agricultural University, GB Pant Agricultural University, IISc Bangalore and Delhi University.

(ii)NRDC prepares detailed technology transfer documentation and searches for appropriate licenses for the technologies assigned to it by giving them adequate publicity through newspaper advertisements, participation in exhibitions and conducting market surveys.

(iii)NRDC also does value addition in the assigned technologies and prepares the basic design engineering packages to facilitate their commercialization. At times, NRDC also participates in the equity of the venture based on newly commercialized technology.

(iv)Intellectual property protection has become an important consideration in transfer and commercialization of technology. NRDC provides technical, legal and financial assistance to the originator of the technology for patenting it in India and abroad before transferring it to a licensee on exclusive or non- exclusive basis.NRDC, during its existence for over 5 decades has become a large depository of around 2500 indigenous technologies in diverse sectors of industry and has transferred / licensed technologies to around 4500 entrepreneurs in India and abroad for commercial exploitation.

(c)NRDC, recently has been aggressively scouting for technologies from academic institutions for transfer to industry and their commercialization since most of them do not have their own technology transfer cells. NRDC has filed 20 patents based on R&D work being carried out in various universities, on its own expense and commercialized 9 technologies out of these on a non- exclusive basis.In addition, the government has been taking a number of steps to bring industry and academia closer. Important ones include:

(i)125% weighted IT deduction on industry-sponsored projects in universities and research institutions.

(ii)Support to collaborative R&D and technology development projects of industry and academic institutions under Pharmaceutical Research and Development Support Fund of DST, Technology Development and Demonstration Programme of DSIR, Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) of DBT and New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) of CSIR. Under NMITLI, 42 networked projects involve 65 industry partners and 222 R&D establishments.

(iii)DST has set up about 15 Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Parks

(STEPs) to provide R&D support to SSIs through interaction with academic and R&D institutions.

(iv)DST has established Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in some 12 academic institutors with a view to nurture technology based start-ups by ensuring the support and advice of academia to the entrepreneurs. Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) in IIT Delhi also has a TBI which enables entrepreneurs to have intense linkage with IIT faculty in commercialization of their technologies.

(v)TIFAC (DST) has established 26 Centres of Relevance and Excellence (COREs) in select academic institutions which have specialized analytical & testing facilities managed by professionals from academic institutions. These facilities are for use by industry, thus promoting linkages between industry and academia.

(vi)The government from time to time including NRDC supports and organizes conferences to promote industry - institute linkages.